

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

130 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792
Phone: (303) 866-2087



Jane E. Norton
Lieutenant Governor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 31, 2003

Contact: Garrett Groves
(303) 866.3125

AMERICAN INDIAN SCHOLARS LICENSE PLATES TO BE AVAILABLE AUGUST 1, 2003

Sale of License Plates to Benefit American Indian Scholars Fund

(DENVER) – Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton, who oversees the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, announced today that the American Indian Scholars Specialty License Plates will be available at all county license plate offices, to all Coloradans for purchase, beginning August 1, 2003.

“The American Indian Scholar License Plates provide an excellent opportunity for Colorado,” said Norton. “Not only will they promote a greater awareness of our State’s heritage and culture, but they will also create an additional resource for students wanting to continue on in their education.”

The specialty plate originated from House Bill 1044, which Governor Bill Owens signed in 2002. The bill allows for the creation of an American Indian Scholarship Fund where a \$25 donation will be deposited for each plate sold. American Indians who are residents of the State of Colorado and who attend Colorado institutions of higher education can apply for these funds to help assist them in paying for college.



To obtain a plate, interested parties must first contact the Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce online at www.rmicc.org, stop by their office at 924 W. Colfax in Denver, or call the American Indian Scholarship hotline at 720-529-4550. Upon receipt of the \$25 donation, the chamber will issue an American Indian Scholars Certificate, which must be taken to a local Colorado Department of Motor Vehicle office. The license plate can be picked up after collection of the regular specialty license fee and all applicable registration fees.

The Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce will receive the funds and distribute the scholarship to awardees. The Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs will be the reporting State agency that will monitor the accountability of the revenues and scholarships.

Francis Sherwood, a Denver area American Indian, designed the winning license plate that was chosen in a contest held by the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. Sherwood received \$1,000 from the Colorado Indian Education Association for his winning design.

For more information about the American Indian Scholars Specialty License Plates, or on how to apply for an American Indian Scholarship, please contact Karen Wilde Rogers in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor at (303) 866.3027 or at Karen.Wilde-Rogers@state.co.us.

Jane Norton was sworn in as Colorado's 46th Lieutenant Governor on January 13, 2003. Her responsibilities include serving as the statutorily named chair of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs; acting as point person for the Owens Administration on health insurance reform; strengthening families by overseeing the state's volunteerism, mentoring, and adoption initiatives; and serving as Colorado's delegate to the Aerospace States Association.

###